

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 AF-10 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10
ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-04
SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-02 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-10 INT-05
IO-14 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-02 OES-09
OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 OIC-02
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-----028159 302107Z /43

R 291935Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1623

UNCLAS LIMA 7705

ATTN: WINSTON

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLOS, PE
SUBJ: PRESS COMMENT ON UNCLOS

REF: STATE 213683

1. THE GOP-CONTROLLED NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS HAVE BEEN REMARKABLY SILENT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE RESUMED 7TH SESSION OF THE LOS CONFERENCE. THIS SILENCE WAS BROKEN ON AUG 29, WHEN 2 WIRE SERVICE ITEMS APPEARED IN LIMA'S MAJOR DAILIES "EL COMERCIO" AND "LA PRENSA".

2. "EL COMERCIO'S" FRONT PAGE EFE ITEM REPORTS EXTENSIVELY ON PERUVIAN PERMREP ALZAMORA'S SPEECH OF AUG 28 OBJECTING TO THE USG'S PLANS TO PROCEED UNILATERALLY WITH DEEP SEA BED MINING LEGISLATION. ACCORDING TO THE ITEM, ALZAMORA REMINDED THE RESUMED SESSION THAT PERU HAS REPEATEDLY AND EMPHATICALLY SPOKEN OUT AGAINST SUCH UNILATERAL ACTION, TAKEN BEHIND THE BACK OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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LOS CONFERENCE. HE SAID THAT THE AUTHORS OF THIS INITIATIVE DO NOT CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THE POSSIBLE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR ACT, WHICH SEPARATES FROM THE NEGOTIATING PACKAGE ITS MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENT. HE CRITICIZED US REASONING THAT QUESTIONS OF SOVEREIGNTY ARE NOT INVOLVED AND THAT THE PROJECTED LEGISLATION IS ONLY TRANSITORY, AND QUESTIONED THE GOOD FAITH OF THE US IN PROCEEDING WITH DEEP SEA BED MINING LEGISLATION.

ALZAMORA QUESTIONED THE ALLEGED URGENCY OF THE US INITIATIVE, IN VIEW OF CURRENT DEPRESSED WORLD PRICES FOR COPPER AND NICKEL. HE WARNED THE COUNTRIES THAT ARE CONTEMPLATING THIS STEP THAT THEIR ASSUMPTION THAT THE REST OF THE NEGOTIATING PACKAGE IS SECURED AND WILL NOT BE NEGATIVELY AFFECTED BY UNILATERAL ACTION ON DEEP SEA BED MINING IS TOTALLY ERRONEOUS.

3. "LA PRENSA" CARRIED A SMALLER AP ITEM ON PAGE 7, NOTING THE CLASH BETWEEN THE USG AND THE THIRD WORLD OVER US PLANS TO ALLOW PRIVATE COMPANIES TO EXPLOIT DEEP SEA BED MINERALS. AMBASSADOR ALZAMORA'S SPEECH (ABOVE) IS NOT REFERRED TO SPECIFICALLY. WE HAVE BEEN NO EDITORIAL COMMENT. SHLAUDEMAM

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